

# Duck Trackers

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Once again the Oregon-Oregon State series must decide things this year. One season ago those two rivals were in the same contesting position, each scrapping for the league pennant going into their final, bitter series. Whoever came out with the victory was shooed into the throne room, while the door banged shut on the unfortunate losers. Last year Hobson's Duck clipped the Orangemen in the issue-deciding tilt—that clinched it for us.

Just a wee bit different situation in the current conference chase now though. Oregon State was the team which came through so brilliantly on the rocky Inland Empire trip. They squeezed past Idaho and Washington State twice and eluded the powerful Washington Huskies only after a hard run, splitting the series.

## WSC Series Rough

Our Darling, Devastating Ducks ran into an unforeseen power when they crossed the threshold of the Washington State baseball arena and were swamped twice by the cagey Cougars which all but knifed Oregon hopes in the heart. However, a determined comeback on an upward swing in which the locals KOed Idaho's weak Vandals twice and a fine showing against Washington, still gives the Ducks a solid crack at the title.

And so the focus will be on those vital Oregon-Oregon State games this weekend. All other teams are out of it.

The first tussle is listed for Corvallis Saturday with the return engagement on Howe field booked for a Monday evening.

You can most assuredly count on an action-packed series, no holds barred, things really wide open.

## Last Look at Ducks

This series finale will be the last glimpse you'll get of Oregon's grand little baseball aggregation. Whether they win or lose the title, they still have captured the hearts of Oregon fans with their firebrand, ball-swatting style of play. And the record which the Ducks have compiled these last few years is something at which no-one can sneer.

Pennants in 1942, 1941, 1939—three in the last four years—that's the recent record of the Ducks which spells baseball superiority in huge letters. And you can go farther back if you care to with the Hobsonites plucking off the choicest plums season after season.

## Up-and-Down

But the current gang is a unique unit—vastly different than any of its predecessors. At times the club was terrifically outstanding, like that day when they walloped Idaho 23 to 1 for the most one-sided score of late years. Other days everything seemed to go wrong, Portland's surprising 9 to 6 win over a seemingly muscle-bound Webfoot machine as an instance.

They were hot and cold, on and off, mainly we venture, because of the intermixture of green talent which lacked the steadiness of last year's veterans.

Always interesting to watch though, you'd never know what to expect. But those erratic Ducks were superb more times than they were miserable with the net result, a snug position high in the upper division.

## Bubalo—Tops in Batters

For hitting precision you couldn't pick a better man than Johnny Bubalo, the versatile all-around guy. Whether Boob is able to stay above the .500 mark or not for the entire season, the long time that he dwelled in the lofty .700 and .800 bracket was enough to stamp him as the loop's best hitter.

Donny Kirsch is untouchable as a second sacker—fielder, hitter, and morale-builder—unexcelled. Bob Farrow at short and Bill Hamel at third, two other vets who combined hitting with fielding goodies.

A green outfield with the exception of Lefty Dick Burns, Art Murphy, Barney Koch, and Bob Caviness could match any in the circuit. For battery strength Roy Carlson, though inexperienced, did almost an iron-man catching stunt. Pitching strength, Nick Begleries, Bubalo, Hal Saltzman, and Whitey Lokan and Bob Caviness who blossomed late in the year, was on a par with any in the loop.

A real ball-playing outfit—and a bunch of swell fellows.

## Inevitable Swan Song

Soliloquoy on departure: Comes the time when a swan song must be yodeled, when farewells must be made, and au revoirs must be tossed thither and yon. What with the University of Oregon as we know it today about to croak its death rattle as spring term prepares to fold and as the draft, navy, and marine corps reserves gather in the remaining Oregon males with long, clutching, relentless fingers, that inevitable swan song is coming up from yours truly.

# DUs Cop IM Crown With Win Over SPEs

By BILL DYER

Hail the champs of the 1943 intramural softball tournament—Delta Upsilon. Led by "King" Wren and "Crown Prince" Dilling the new throne possessors overcame the challenging Sigma Phi Epsilon club Monday 3 to 2 in a bruising, clawing wild contest.

Both clubs were out for the victory and they fought tooth and nail for eight long torrid innings before the DUs finally broke through to crack the 2-2 tie and emerge victorious.

Again Bob Wren was the guiding light in the DUs victory. "Birdie" hurled a no-hit ball game but was the victim of miscues by his teammates and the always-on-their-toes SPE crew capitalized on the misplays to push across the two tallies that almost meant the title.

**Sigma Phi Epsilon was ahead at the last half of the seventh and final frame 2 to 1. Christensen and Jones were easy outs as Borthick, SPE chucker, really bore down. Two down and one more out and the Sig Eps would have the title.**

But Wren was up and with two strikes called on him he showed the indomitable spirit that characterizes his play and he slammed out a blazing single. As Borthick started his windup for the next pitch, Wren streaked for second. Borthick turned and easily tossed to second and it looked as though Bob was an easy out. As Harms, the second baseman, took the throw, Burly Bob came tearing into the base and knocked Mister Harms off his pins and sent the ball rolling into center field.

Up again and off for third Wren tore into the third baseman and sent him rolling in the dust as the ball thrown from center trickled harmlessly away.

Scored

Panting and heaving Bob rounded third and scored standing up to tie up the ball game, and send the contest into extra innings.

In the overtime Wren set the SPE club down one, two, three. Now the DUs were up in a crucial moment. Dilling the first man up found the range for his only hit of the day and rapped out a double.

Ginn struck out and then Kufner worked Borthick for a walk. On a double steal Dilling took third and then heretofore hitless Murphy came through with a bounder through the box to bring Dilling in from third to give the DUs the game and the championship.

Although defeated the Sig Eps played inspired ball, and it was only the wild base running of Wren that spelled defeat. Mervin Borthick hurled beautiful ball and allowed only six hits and two walks. He also pushed across the SPE's first score in the first frame.

Harms brought in the other tally in the fifth inning when he stole home after reaching third on a walk and an infield error. He slid under Grab, DU catcher

Sincerely, though, it's been a real pleasure to cover the activities of Oregon's athletics for the past three years. We have met a lot of swell fellows, many of whom aren't around any more. The cooperation of the coaches has been "swell" and this "job" hasn't been nearly the chore it might have been.

In parting allow us to wish "best of luck" to everyone and hope for a quick reunion at the "U" at the end of this bloody, distasteful mess called "war."



MAN BEHIND THE WEBFOOTS . . .

. . . Coaching the Oregon Webfoots in their drive for their fourth pennant in five years is Howard Hobson, well known Oregon mentor. The Ducks ended their six-games-in-seven-days road trip yesterday against the Washington Huskies.

## Ducks-Beavers

(Continued from page four)

The baseball gang from Corvallis also recently completed the circuit of the northern teams and came out with far happier results than those achieved by Hobby's pets. Those arrogant Beavers bopped Idaho and Washington State twice and divided a pair of games with Washington.

Oregon fared quite well, but ran afoul of a WSC ambush and before Br'er Duck could get his little waddling body out of Pullmantown, he was plucked clean. Those two losses loomed big, but then the wily Webfoot scooted into Moscow and cracked the Vandals across the knuckles twice and then did okeh for himself in Seattle to once again boost himself up in there as a title contender.

### Crown in Balance

So everything points to the coming series. The conference crown lies in the balance with the clawing Beaver and the clutching Duck each grabbing at it from opposite sides of the fence.

Oregon's best bet is to hope that their big seige guns are well primed and ready to fire away as they did in that terrific 23 to 1 slaughter of Idaho.

Also, the Ducks will rely heavily on their three top twirlers, Nick Begleries, Johnny Bubalo, and Hal Saltzman, to put the hobbles on the OSC sluggers who now and then ring out quite vociferously.

Beaver Skipper Coleman will probably pin his hopes on Heavers Don Cecil and Andy Frahler. Cecil, best Orange twirler, was the unfortunate victim of the first Duck blast, whereas Frahler, ranked only as second-best, managed to grab the win from our men in the second meeting.

Games will be at 3 o'clock.